

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 NASA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9618

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 2840

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1668

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: DRAFT CONVENTION TO REGISTER SPACE LAUNCHES AND
SPACE OBJECTS

REF: STATE 60418

SUMMARY. US REP DREW ON REFTEL AT APRIL 3 POLADS MEETING IN
EXPLAINING SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH CAUSED US TO OPPOSE
CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN CANADIAN/ FRENCH DRAFT AND DEVELOP
US ALTERNATE. ITALIAN REP SAID ROME' S PRELIMINARY REACTION
WAS FAVORABLE TO US POSITION, AND UK REP NOTED SUPPORT FOR
US DRAFT. CANADIAN REP SAID COMPARISON OF US AND CANADIAN/
FRENCH DRAFTS WAS UNDERWAY WHICH SHOULD CLARIFY SITUATION AND
EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR US SECURITY CONCERNS. SUBJECT WILL
REMAIN ON POLADS AGENDA FOR ONE MORE WEEK TO ALLOW FOR FRG
COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. US REP OPENED DISCUSSION BY DRAWING ON REFTEL. HE
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT WE HAVE RECIVED FROM
ALLIES FOR OUR POSITION AND POINTED OUT WHERE CANADIAN/
FRENCH DRAFT WAS UNACCEPTABLE FROM US POINT OF VIEW. WHILE
STRESSING THAT HIS REPORT WAS PRELIMINARY, ITALIAN REP
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SAID REACTIONS OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN ROME
WERE FAVORABLE TO US POSITION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT

SCIENTIFIC AND LEGAL EXPERTS WERE STILL EXAMINING QUESTION AND SUGGESTED THAT THESE EXPERTS MIGHT FIND EVEN US DRAFT TOO RESTRICTIVE IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE EUROPEAN SPACE PROGRAMS. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID ROME BELIEVED US DRAFT PROVIDED ALL NECESSARY GUARANTEES AND THAT ITALIAN UN DELEGATION WOULD BE INSTRUCTED ALONG THESE LINES.

2. NOTING EXTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH US AND FRANCE, CANADIAN REP REPORTED THAT US AND CANADIAN/ FRENCH DRAFTS WERE BEING COMPARED AT MEETINGS OF OUTER SPACE SUB- COMMITTEE. ON BASIS THIS COMPARISON, HE SAID, CANADA WOULD COMMENT AT SOME FUTURE TIME ON US DRAFT. FRENCH REP DID NOT SPEAK. (COMMENT: FOLLOWING MEETING, CANADIAN REP ADVISED US THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STRESS TO US IN PRIVATE THAT CANADA FULLY UNDERSTOOD US SECURITY CONCERNS, THAT FRENCH HAD INDICATED SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING TO CANADIANS PRIVATELY, AND THAT CANADIAN/ FRENCH DRAFT COULD BE MODIFIED AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO TAKE US CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT FOR TACTICAL REASONS FRENCH BELIEVED THESE CHANGES SHOULD BE HELD OFF FOR TIME BEING IN ORDER TO PROTECT FRENCH POSITION ON NATIONAL REGISTRATION. END COMMENT.)

3. UK REP SAID LONDON SHARED US SECURITY CONCERNS AND POINTED TO MARCH 27 STATEMENT BY UK REP IN OUTER SPACE SUB- COMMITTEE. NORWEGIAN REP POINTED OUT THAT NORWAY WAS NOT MEMBER OF SUB- COMMITTEE AND HAD NO POSITION ON RELATIVE MERITS OF TWO DRAFTS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OSLO FULLY UNDERSTOOD US SECURITY CONCERNS.

4. AT REQUEST OF FRG REP, SUBJECT WILL REMAIN ON POLADS AGENDA FOR ONE MORE WEEK TO PERMIT HIM TO COMMENT. NO FURTHER GUIDANCE IS REQUIRED. RUMSFELD

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